

REMARKS

Please note the new docket number. The new docket number **151806** replaces the old docket number 5600.

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 21-24 are withdrawn. Claims 11 and 17 are amended as agreed to during the in-person interview. Support for these amendments are found throughout the specification. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 6, 7, 12 and 20.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the in-person interview with Applicant's representative on December 18, 2003. During this interview, the rejections of claims 1, 11 and 17 and the objection to the specification with regards to claim 2 were discussed. Specifically, the Applicant showed that the mixer element of claim 1 was not taught by the cited references and that the specification provided antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter of claim 2, particularly in Fig. 3a. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 and the objection to the specification. The Applicant also presented the above amendments to claims 11 and 17. The Examiner agreed that these amendments overcome the cited art. The Examiner stated that he will conduct an update search. If, as expected, no additional relevant prior art is found, then Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

In the Drawings

Applicant submits corrected formal drawings under separate cover in response to the draftsman's rejection of August 29, 2003. Acceptance of these corrected formal drawings is requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully maintains that the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Examiner believes that there are any outstanding issued, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's representative below.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Wooden', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: January 5, 2004